UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/2000/34 (Part I)
E/ICEF/2000/8 (Part I)
15 March 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND ON THE WORK OF ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF 2000

(31 January-3 February 2000)*

* The present document is an advance version of the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its first regular session (31 January-3 February 2000). The report on the annual session (22-26 May 2000) will be issued as part II. These reports will be combined with the report on the second regular session (18-22 September 2000) and issued in final form as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 14 (E/2000/34/Rev.1-E/ICEF/2000/8/Rev.1).

00-34645 (E) 180500

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

Election of officers for 2000

1. Elected at the pre-Board meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 17 January 2000, the officers of the Executive Board for the year 2000 are as follows:

President: H.E. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh)

Vice-Presidents: Ms. Lala Ibrahimova (Azerbaijan)
H.E. Mr. Alberto Salamanca (Bolivia)
Mr. Luc Schillings (Netherlands)
H.E. Mr. Mubarak Hussein Rahmtalla (Sudan)

Opening statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director

2. The President welcomed all participants to the first session of the Executive Board in the new millennium - a time when there was a greater expectation of, and increased need for, UNICEF to make a real difference in the lives of millions of children around the world. In that connection, he stressed the importance of continued regular and substantive contacts between the secretariat and the Board to ensure the continuation and further improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of UNICEF. The work of the Board in 2000 was pivotal in guiding UNICEF to prepare for the special session of the General Assembly in 2001 to take stock of the pledges made to the children of the world 10 years ago at the World Summit for Children. The President also spoke about the organization's two greatest strengths - its excellent and dedicated staff, and the richness and relevance of its programmes. In closing, he paid a special tribute Jim Grant, who "had been instrumental in many of the meaningful programmes of the last decade", and in many that UNICEF would be following up in 2001. (See E/ICEF/2000/CRP.1 for the full text of his statement.)

3. In her opening statement, the Executive Director thanked the Deputy Executive Director for standing in for her on the first day of the session as she had been attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where UNICEF had helped to mark the formal launch of the Children's Challenge, the inaugural initiative of the newly formed Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). She recognized the new Bureau members and formally presented the two new Deputy Executive Directors, Kul Gautam, for Alliances and Resources, and André Roberfroid, for Programme and Strategic Planning. The Executive Director spoke about the encouraging signs to make children's rights a reality in deed as well as in law, and stressed that where UNICEF faced daunting developmental and humanitarian challenges to survival and well-being, the organization's priorities remained firmly anchored in health and nutrition, the protection of children from abuse and exploitation, basic education, and immediate access to clean water and adequate sanitation. The successes of UNICEF had grown out of its recognition of the need to focus on the well-being of the "whole child", which made it possible for the organization to emerge as a moral force for children the world over, achieving triumphs that were unimaginable only a few decades ago. With the Board's help, she concluded, "UNICEF would stay that course in this fresh and daunting new century". (See E/ICEF/2000/CRP.2 for the full text of her statement.)

B. Adoption of the agenda

4. The agenda, timetable and organization of work of the session, as contained in documents E/ICEF/2000/2 and Corr.1, was adopted. The agenda contained the following items:

Item 1: Opening of the session:

(b) Statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director

Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work

Item 3: Report of the Executive Director (Part I): Annual report to the Economic and Social Council

Item 4: Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund (UNDP/UNFPA) and the World Food Programme (WFP)

Item 5: Multi-year funding framework (MYFF)

Item 6: Funding meeting

Item 7: Private Sector Division (PSD) work plan and proposed budget for 2000

Item 8: Programme matters:

(a) Country notes

(b) Recommendations for additional regular resources for approved country programmes

Item 9: Report on the second meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health (CCH)

Item 11: Other matters

Item 12: Closing of the session: remarks by the Executive Director and the President of the Executive Board

5. In accordance with rule 50.2 and the annex of the Rules of Procedure, the Secretary of the Executive Board announced that 68 observer delegations had submitted credentials for the session. In addition, three United Nations bodies, two specialized agencies, four non-governmental organizations (NGOs), four National Committees for UNICEF, Palestine, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies had also submitted credentials.

II. DELIBERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. Private Sector Division work plan and proposed budget for 2000

6. The Executive Board had before it the PSD work plan and proposed budget for 2000 (E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.1). The report was introduced by the Director, PSD, who also presented the highlights of PSD performance and activities during 1999 as well as income trends and PSD strategies for 2000. These included a primary emphasis on private sector fund-raising, further revitalization of the cards business, building on corporate alliances, focused investments in the Nordic markets and implementation of pilot projects in electronic commerce.

7. The majority of the delegations which took the floor supported the work plan and proposed budget. At the same time, some of them expressed concern that the medium-term projections for card sales were too optimistic. The Director thanked Board members for acknowledging the role of greeting card operations in establishing the UNICEF brand as a genuine household name in most of the world. He also explained that the medium-term forecasts were based on the current and projected future market potential.

8. A number of issues raised by delegations dealt with the format of the work plan and proposed budget document. Although the consensus was that the document had improved significantly in recent years, there was still room for increased transparency. For example, two delegations stressed the need for the document to include an assessment of the scale of risks on income projections, while another suggested the inclusion of income trends split between National Committees and field offices.

9. One speaker enquired about the possibility of having the Executive Board review the PSD work plan and proposed budget before the start of the fiscal year. The Director responded that the proposal had to be thoroughly reviewed, taking into account all pros and cons, and specifically highlighting that the comparative basis for the work plan would be less reliable as an earlier submission would lack the accurate information on the status of the current year's activities.

10. In response to a question raised about expanding UNICEF card and product sales and fund-raising activities to new markets, the Director said that PSD was always ready to explore possibilities for income generation and would consider all serious proposals from UNICEF regional and country offices. A decision to enter a specific market would be made based solely on the potential return on investment and general business viability.

11. The representative of the Standing Group of National Committees noted that as the principal partners of PSD, the National Committees shared the concern about reductions in income, citing, therefore, the need for new markets. This would also present new opportunities for growth. The representative noted the increased involvement of the Executive Board in terms of support.

12. Responding to a question about whether the partnership with FIFA could cloud the image of UNICEF in view of the known use of child labour in the manufacture of soccer balls, the Director informed that this partnership came to fruition through the initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General and was deemed to open new avenues for UNICEF to promote its goals and principals, including those against the exploitation of children. The Director also stated that FIFA was aware of the situation and wanted to cooperate with UNICEF to

alleviate the situation. (See the annex II, decision 2000/1, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

B. Programme matters

Introduction

13. The Director, Programme Division, presented the 18 country notes for new programmes of cooperation to begin in January 2001. They were before the Board for comments, which would shared with the relevant field offices and taken into account in the preparation of the final country programme recommendations (CPRs). He also introduced the document containing recommendations for approval of additional regular resources for 10 country programmes for which the balances of approved regular resources were insufficient to fund the programmes to the end of their cycles and the one-year extension of the current programme cycles of two country programmes (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.19).

14. He said that the country notes had been prepared in close consultation with national partners, and drew on the findings of the latest situation analyses of children and women, the outcomes of mid-term reviews (MTRs), lessons learned and evaluations of the current programmes of cooperation. They represented a broad range of strategic approaches, which reflected the widely varying circumstances of children and women in the different countries. They also reflected major national priorities and the strategic goals of the United Nations system as expressed through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), where it existed, and incorporated aspects of a human rights-based approach to programme cooperation. In addition, the country notes had a stronger focus on children at different stages of the life cycle in anticipation of the expected direction of the new Global Agenda for Children, and set out the specific UNICEF support to the sector-wide approach (SWAP) and sector reforms, where these had been introduced by national partners.

15. The Director pointed out that the country notes incorporated a two-pronged approach, combining support to policy development and service interventions on a national scale with a direct focus on highly marginalized or impoverished families and communities. In conclusion, he noted two critical areas where, through the new programmes of cooperation, UNICEF aimed to accelerate its efforts to assist children and women whose rights were most under threat: the fight against HIV/AIDS; and the incorporation of programme components and collaborative United Nations system activities aimed at strengthening capacity and preparedness of responses to instability and crisis situations.

16. A number of Board members commented that the country notes varied in quality, suggesting greater attention to overall consistency and a standardized approach to their presentation. Some country notes presented too wide a scope of intended areas of intervention in relation to expected resources and UNICEF office capacity, reflecting an inadequate level of prioritization. The Director expressed appreciation for the comments, adding that the secretariat had established guidelines in an effort to improve both consistency and quality. He assured delegations that the secretariat would revisit this issue to respond more effectively to their concerns.

17. The more systematic adoption of a human rights-based approach to programme cooperation in some of the country notes was welcomed by a number of Board members. An increased emphasis, where appropriate, on rights-based policy dialogue and support to child rights-conscious policy formulation was also

welcomed. However, some speakers noted the continued challenge to UNICEF to define, in more specific ways, how a human rights-based approach impacted programme strategies and content. It was also suggested that country programme documents might provide an indication, where possible, of those priority issues relating to children's and women's rights that were expected to be pursued through policy dialogue and advocacy. The Director explained that a human rights-based approach was an all-encompassing framework and that UNICEF was dealing with the underlying causes. UNICEF, he said, viewed children not only as recipients, but also as participants and partners in the approach.

18. The increased focus on addressing the effects of HIV/AIDS on children and women, in a rights perspective, was also welcomed. One speaker wanted to know what UNICEF was doing to assist AIDS orphans and to protect newborns of HIV-infected mothers. This issue, replied the Director, would be elaborated on in greater detail by the Regional Directors in their presentations.

19. Concern was expressed about the weak analysis of overall international development cooperation, especially in the social development areas, as well as a lack of analysis of the implications of the broader context of development assistance for the strategic priorities of UNICEF cooperation, in a number of the country notes. The more specific analysis of partnerships in areas of UNICEF support, including with other United Nations agencies, the World Bank and bilateral organizations, was also seen to be inadequate in some cases. The importance of reflecting partnerships at the country-level was noted by the Director, who also acknowledged the need to reflect this more accurately in the country notes. He assured that these would be better reflected in the CPRs being submitted to the Board in September.

20. Several Board members commented that the role of UNICEF in relation to ongoing national SWAPs, and sector reform and sector investment programmes was not clearly identified or explained in some of the relevant country notes. There was now a strong expectation that UNICEF would both adopt a clear role in participating in sector-based approaches in future, based on its mandate for children's rights, and would proceed to reflect this explicitly in future programme documentation. In that connection, the Director assured that UNICEF placed great importance on SWAPS and sector investment programmes (SIPs) and had collaborated to varying degrees, was trying to bring added value to the processes.

21. A similar comment was made with respect to the need to clarify the role of UNICEF in the UNDAF process, where it existed, as well as the need for new programmes of cooperation to indicate how the findings of programme evaluations, lessons learned, situation analyses of children and women, and the wider Common Country Assessments (CCAs) have influenced the selection of strategic priorities and major areas of intervention. It was noted that, in many cases, the statement of lessons learned was weak and the use of such lessons in defining the proposed strategy was unclear. The Director said that the secretariat would try to include more details in the CPRs as well as in future country notes.

22. It was suggested that programme documentation should indicate how the achievement of programme and project objectives would be monitored and include a statement of at least some of the main indicators, evaluation activities and information collection systems used to track progress and key results in the main areas of UNICEF cooperation support. This was seen to have even greater importance where UNICEF was one of several partners in a SWAP.

23. In response to a query about allocations for programme budgets, the Director explained that regular resources were allocated on the basis of a system approved by the Executive Board. The level of other resources was based on a pragmatic approach which took into account such elements as the levels of previous allocations, anticipation of the receipt of the funds and the level of utilization of the funds.

24. One Board member commented on the lack of a UNICEF presence in his country. The Director noted his concern and assured that UNICEF would review the situation carefully.

25. In conclusion, the Director expressed appreciation for the delegations' candid remarks, which he reiterated would be taken into consideration in the preparation of the final CPRs. In invited Board members to share their concerns and other issues bilaterally with the secretariat.

Country notes

Eastern and Southern Africa

26. The Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa presented an overview of activities in the region and introduced the country notes for Rwanda (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.1), Swaziland (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.2) and Uganda (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.3). He spoke about the lives of the people in the region which were dominated by armed conflict and HIV/AIDS, noting the important collaboration and coordination efforts with the International Alliance Against AIDS in Africa, the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the UNDAF theme group on HIV/AIDS. In sub-Saharan Africa, HIV/AIDS represented a social catastrophe which was having a direct economic impact and threatened political stability. He said that in 1998, the Regional Office decided to reorient all UNICEF-supported programmes in the region to focus on HIV/AIDS and malaria. The programming framework that was developed and tested in the region combined human rights, community capacity development and emergency responsiveness. In conclusion, the Regional Director outlined the major components of the three country notes which reflected this framework.

27. Many delegations expressed support for the priority focus on HIV/AIDS in the region and stressed the importance of partnerships in this regard. The representative of UNAIDS reported on the catastrophic situation of HIV/AIDS in Africa and the UNDAF-related team group system to provide a platform for strengthening national AIDS programmes. Mention was also made of the Secretary-General leading a meeting of partners in the fight against HIV/AIDS and the recent Security Council focus on the subject. One delegation cited mother-to-child transmission of HIV as an area in which UNICEF could strengthen its work to fight AIDS more aggressively. It was noted, however, that while HIV/AIDS was a commendable priority, children's rights were still at risk in traditional areas of UNICEF support, such as health and education.

28. Several speakers noted the insufficient attention given to SWAPs and SIPs, as well as to UNDAF and other partnerships in the documents, and stressed the importance of UNICEF participation in these mechanisms. In response, the Regional Director noted that UNICEF was very involved in discussions of SWAPs at the country level, often chairing SWAPS working groups. He said that UNICEF representatives had been working to integrate priorities for children's rights in SWAPs and continued to learn from the experience. One delegation added that UNICEF participation in SWAPs should ensure the inclusion of such critical themes as HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, poverty, etc.

29. Concern was expressed by a number of delegations that a large portion of budgeted funds was from other resources and, therefore, not assured, e.g. Uganda where 75 per cent of the programme depended on other resources. The question was raised as to the basis for the calculation of estimates for other resources, and it was suggested that future country notes should indicate the amount of other resources received in the previous programme period and for which areas.

30. One speaker remarked that none of the country notes referred to how UNICEF was assisting national Governments in aid coordination, which could be problematic due to the large number of ministries involved and the limited amount of funds. The Regional Director replied that aid coordination was primarily a Government's responsibility. However, greater coherence in the United Nations system was achieved through UNDAF.

31. Regarding the Rwanda country note, several delegations noted that the situation analysis seemed overly optimistic, including in relation to rehabilitated social, administrative, judicial and economic infrastructures and claims about the rapidly growing economy. Also, the accuracy of the number of children affected by the genocide was questioned. It was noted that while social sector expenditure had increased, only a small percentage was allocated to primary health care (PHC). It was remarked that the return to the traditional justice system and the participation of women and youth organizations in elections were important events which should have been included in the situation analysis. The Regional Director responded that there had certainly been significant improvements in the situation in Rwanda since 1994. However, he acknowledged that the characterization of the situation in the country note might have been somewhat over-optimistic. Because of limitations on the length of country notes, there was a trade-off in terms of comprehensiveness.

32. Several delegations noted that the proposed priorities of the Rwanda country note seemed to fall within a broad interpretation of the UNICEF mandate. However, the capacity of the country office to manage this ambitious programme with numerous priorities was questioned, with a suggestion to focus on fewer priorities. One delegation expressed the view that support to street children and child soldiers could have been emphasized more. One speaker remarked that donor collaboration and NGO partnerships needed more attention.

33. Commenting on the Swaziland country note, many delegations expressed support for the strategy to prioritize HIV/AIDS, while noting that the programme also involved all the important sectors. One delegation asked why measures for combating HIV/AIDS were not explicitly reflected in the budget. It was suggested that partnerships with local donors be emphasized.

34. Many delegations agreed with the key elements of the strategy in the Uganda country note, which consisted of community empowerment, capacity-building and advocacy. One speaker expressed reservations about the capacity of the country office to manage the programme and also asked how adolescents and street children would be targeted in HIV/AIDS activities. The same speaker noted that the proposed strategy did not address the low immunization rates or problems of child spacing and malnutrition in the country. Several delegations said that the health and education challenges seemed to have been down-played and that the amount allocated to both sectors should be higher. It was also noted that existing partnerships at the country level had not been adequately reflected. In that connection, a speaker mentioned his country's support of the Complementary Opportunities for Primary Education (COPE) programme in Uganda through the education SIP and looked forward to working with UNICEF in this

area. Another speaker stressed the importance of basic education in the fight against HIV/AIDS and said that feedback from their local embassy indicated good consultation in programme planning with partners, although this was not reflected in the country note. He also stated that although UNICEF was active in SWAPs, this is also not adequately reflected in the country note. In response, the Regional Director noted that the COPE experience was now being emulated in neighbouring United Republic of Tanzania.

35. Another speaker questioned why emergency preparedness had been included as part of the overall strategy. The Regional Director replied that in line with UNICEF programme policies, emergency response was mainstreamed as a set of predictable core activities which formed part of the country programme. Both Rwanda and Uganda combined emergency actions with human rights and community capacity development. The same speaker wanted to know the impact of the five national programmes and how the situation could be improved. In response, the Regional Director said that for sustained community capacity-building, action was needed at district, regional and national levels. As such, he noted, UNICEF identified allies at various levels and trained facilitators.

36. In response to a query about how lessons learned in HIV/AIDS programmes in countries such as Uganda were being applied, the Regional Director cited several country examples of high level advocacy and programme response. Regarding quantifiable measures for HIV/AIDS, he noted that along with UNAIDS and UNDAF partners, UNICEF was trying to expand the conventional indicators to include behavioural development indicators. He noted that as in the case of other development areas such as nutrition, a community-based surveillance system was needed, and welcomed the collaboration of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and others in strengthening HIV/AIDS surveillance. He also stressed the strategic importance of voluntary testing and counselling and addressing the rights of AIDS orphans which were new areas of work for UNICEF.

37. One delegation made reference to the plight of children and women abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army and requested that the story of these children be widely disseminated so that such tragedies should never again be repeated. The Regional Director agreed with the suggestion and noted that the recent release of some of the abducted children was a step in the right direction which UNICEF intended to pursue until all the abducted children were released.

West and Central Africa

38. The Regional Director for West and Central Africa introduced the country notes for Burkina Faso (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.4), Chad (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.5) and Ghana (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.6). She informed the Board that the next programme cycles of the three countries would be harmonized with other United Nations agencies starting in 2001. She highlighted the strategic approach of the three documents, which focused on the highly disadvantaged regions and sections of the population. They promoted national-level strategies for advocacy, subregional capacity-building and support to the provision of basic social services, giving priority to equitable access and improved quality of services. Special attention was also given to the prevention of HIV/AIDS among young people and mother-to-child transmission of the virus.

39. Many delegations expressed support for the country notes, commenting on the benefits of a multisectoral approach and geographic focus. One delegation commended UNICEF work in the three countries, particularly in the areas of social mobilization, community development and child protection. However,

concern was expressed about the limited local capacity to implement and manage programmes for children. They suggested that future country notes and CPRs indicate how this constraint would be addressed in the interest of national ownership, and why previous programme objectives had not been met.

40. Delegations raised question about the relevance of the country notes to the UNDAF process, to the decisions of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly regarding the Secretary General's recommendations on Africa, and to the United Nations System-wide Initiative on Africa. In response, the Executive Director noted that UNDAF was a planning instrument intended to bring more coherence to the activities of the system at the country level, but it was too early to evaluate its global impact since not all countries had completed the exercise. She remarked that the System-wide Initiative would normally fit within the planning framework of the UNDAF. The Regional Director clarified that UNDAFs were based on national priorities, and noted that UNICEF offices in Burkina Faso, Chad and Ghana were involved in their respective UNDAF processes.

41. One delegation stressed the importance of strengthening resource mobilization strategies to help raise the necessary other resources for new programmes. The same delegation noted that the proposed budgets did not seem overly ambitious, since the needs of children and women in these countries were great. The regional consultation on the future of children in West and Central Africa, held in December 1999, had provided an opportunity for Governments and civil society to reaffirm their commitment to children. There was, however, a need to define the specific support that the international community was willing to provide and to develop a work plan to make these commitments concrete. Another delegation noted that the regional consultation was important in providing new momentum for Africa to mobilize its own resources for children and prepare for the upcoming United Nations General Assembly Special Session for Follow-up to the World Summit for Children in 2001. The Regional Director agreed with these comments and informed the Board that in the follow-up to the consultation, the Regional Office was planning another meeting to develop a plan of action for West Africa, based on the global plan of action. She confirmed that the outcome of the process would contribute significantly to the special session in 2001. She stated further that the region was receiving approximately $40 million in additional UNICEF regular resources and was working to strengthen the human resources capacity through the deployment of regional HIV/AIDS and emergency personnel and at the country level.

42. Several delegations expressed support for the proposed strategy in the Burkina Faso country note. One speaker stated that, in broad terms, the note reflected government policies in the relevant areas. The same speaker expressed concern, however, about the tendency towards direct project implementation by UNICEF, with limited involvement of the Government and NGOs, and stressed the importance of national ownership. The speaker observed that the country note did not mention the SWAPs being developed in the country, and UNICEF involvement in the country seemed to be restricted by a lack of policy guidance from headquarters. In response, the Regional Director assured delegations that her office would work with UNICEF Burkina Faso to ensure that collaboration with the Government and other development partners was strengthened.

43. Another delegation noted that the country note failed to mention the significant government support to education and the basic social sectors. The delegation further stated that it was necessary to ascertain the consistency of programmes and requested information on how UNICEF made use of these government social programmes in its overall programme of cooperation. He wanted to know about the evaluation of satellite schools and their impact on students.

Regarding decentralization, he stressed that ratification of the treaties on the rights of children and women did not guarantee respect for rights, and that UNICEF should provide support to organizations that worked to promote rights and denounce abuse.

44. Regarding the Chad country note, one delegation remarked that the proposed approach seemed ambitious, judging by the limited available resources and national absorptive capacity. The same speaker indicated that it was important to include information on the geographic focus of the strategy, programme management arrangements and level of collaboration with other development partners. The Regional Director responded that more information would be provided in the CPRs being presented to the Board in September.

45. Several delegations noted the high quality of the Ghana country note and spoke of the positive role of UNICEF in the SWAPs in health and education, particularly in such cross-cutting themes as HIV/AIDS, malnutrition and poverty. In response, the Regional Director noted that, where possible, UNICEF had been involved in SWAPs in the region and had continued to work towards expanding collaboration with the Bretton Woods institutions and other partners.

46. One delegation noted that although UNICEF Ghana did not participate in the health common basket, its sectoral policies and collaboration with the Government, donors, NGOs and the development community were exemplary and should be emulated. Other delegations commended the balance in strategies between rural and community-based programmes and the targeting of the disadvantaged north.

Americas and the Caribbean

47. The Regional Director for the Americas and Caribbean introduced the country notes for Guyana (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.7) and Peru (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.8). He highlighted the Leadership Initiative for Children as a region-wide movement to accelerate the achievements of the World Summit for Children goals and to mobilize Governments and society as a whole. He informed the Board that the Tenth Iberoamerican Summit of Heads of State, to be held in Panama in November 2000, would have children and youth as a central theme. The Regional Director noted the deteriorating socio-economic situation in Guyana and its severe impact on the lives of children and women, and provided a brief description of the proposed programme. He stated that although Peru had a remarkable recovery during the 1990s, there were still ethnic and geographic disparities, social exclusion and severe problems such as HIV/AIDS. Lessons learned through programming experiences in both Guyana and Peru pointed to the need to address issues of inequality and exclusion to ensure that the goals of the World Summit for Children could be reached.

48. Many delegations found that the Guyana country note addressed the priority areas, although one delegation said that the picture presented of the country was unduly pessimistic. Another delegation stated that although the political turmoil surrounding the 1997 elections had contributed to a worsening of the situation of women and children, the overall socio-economic conditions in the subregion were also to blame. Because of the scope of the problems the country faced, the delegation felt that the proposed allocation of funds was inadequate. One delegation stated that, given the projected funding level, a stronger focus on fewer areas would produce better results. Another speaker commended the work being done by the Government to strengthen public and private sector linkages, and recommended that this be used as a model for implementing similar policies throughout the region.

49. Alarm was expressed by the number of children affected by HIV/AIDS, especially in Guyana, and stressed the importance of preventive action and education of young people. Delegations felt that UNICEF should make available even greater resources. One delegation requested that the country note give a clearer indication of what UNICEF expected to be achieved in this area, and felt that the HIV crisis could be addressed as a cross-cutting theme at the country level. The speaker fully supported the organization's efforts to address the problem as a global issue. The Regional Director noted that the HIV/AIDS programme was in fact a high priority in the Caribbean, and particularly in the Guyana country programme. UNICEF was working very closely as a part of the inter-agency group on HIV/AIDS. One delegation noted that the allocations for the Guyana programme in the three areas of social policy and rights, education and life skills, and local systems for integrated child protection were inadequate.

50. Several delegations expressed their support for both country notes and the general goals of the programmes. Another delegation commended some of the areas of the programme, finding them ambitious, but realistic. In some cases, however, delegations felt the analysis of the situation in the country was too brief and rather superficial, especially in the case of Peru. Mention should have been made of the economic context in which UNICEF activities took place. It was also noted that details were lacking in terms of implementation approaches. The country note failed to address gender issues, such as the barriers to women's access to work and the low school enrolment of girls, especially in the mountainous regions.

51. Speaking on behalf of those who took part in the Executive Board field visit to Peru in 1999, one delegation voiced the group's full support for the country note. They were especially encouraged by the rights-based approach and felt that the programme could be a model in this regard. They considered social inclusion a very important initiative and affirmed that it was at the heart of children's rights. Another delegation endorsed the activities in community-level communication and broad partnerships. One delegation found the data on the reduction of poverty in Peru to be overly optimistic and expressed some disagreement with the claim that health centres in Los Andes had been restructured. In response, the Regional Director explained that specific guidelines and databases had been used when preparing the country note, but that, particularly in the field of health and nutrition, a different structure was now in place.

52. Referring to child labour, concern was expressed about the large number of children who were subject to harmful conditions, and recommended that firm action be taken to deal with the root causes of these forms of labour. The same speaker requested clarification on links between UNICEF and the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour. Another delegation expressed the opinion that child labour was a consequence of the structural adjustments imposed by the World Bank, widening the gap between rich and poor countries, as well as the extreme inequalities that existed throughout Latin America. A number of delegations enquired whether UNICEF was working on a cooperative project, approved at the Iberoamerican Summit, concerning the registration of children.

53. The Regional Director replied that UNICEF considered the most effective approach to the elimination of child labour to be through education, helping to get children back to school and providing the necessary support to families to ensure they were able to stay in school. UNICEF was also working with the International Labour Organization to ensure that children had guarantees in accordance with the Convention to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

With regard to the project on child registration recommended at the Iberoamerican Summit, preparations were under way. The right to a name and nationality was a key priority for UNICEF in the region and was an important activity in the Peru country programme.

54. One delegation noted that childhood disability and disability prevention were not mentioned in the Peru country note, while another delegation suggested that UNICEF should strengthen cooperation with international NGOs working in the field of rights, mainly the Save the Children Alliance (SCA). Another delegation wondered where the UNDAF process stood in Peru and what had been the UNICEF contribution. The Regional Director stated that in the new Peru country programme, children with mild handicaps would be mainstreamed by working with communities and the education sector to ensure that their special needs were understood and that they were integrated into the regular education system. In the area of disability prevention, the eradication of iodine deficiency disorders had been the primary focus. The Regional Director pointed out that the country programme would also facilitate technical meetings aimed at improving social communication and advocacy strategies in favour of severely handicapped children.

55. On the question of collaboration, the Regional Director clarified that UNICEF work with NGOs in Peru was an important part of the way services were provided in many parts of the country. There was a special programme of cooperation with SCA, financed by the Government of Sweden, which involved collaboration in nine countries in Latin America, including Peru. On UNDAF, the Regional Director said that the CCA had been finalized for Peru and was being finalized for Guyana.

Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States

56. The Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States presented the country notes for Albania (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.15), Georgia (E/ICEF/2000/O/L.16) and Turkey (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.17). He noted the continued turbulent period of institutional and economic change in Albania, adding that the influx of up to 500,000 refugees from Kosovo (spring 1999) had placed an additional social burden on the country's weakened economy. In Georgia, children and women continued to suffer the negative effects of transition to a market economy, with an estimated 50 per cent of the population living in poverty. Turkey had experienced a decline in the ratio of public expenditures on basic social services. Moreover, the earthquakes that struck the western and most prosperous regions of the country in August 1999 had also brought economic and social hardship to the population. The three country notes reported on the rapid growth of HIV/AIDS in the region. The situations in the Balkans and the Northern Caucasus were also summarized.

57. One delegation noted that despite progress in some key health indicators, Albania was still facing serious maternal and child health (MCH) problems, including acute respiratory infections (ARI) and malnutrition. However, the extent of the problems was unclear owing to the gaps in the collection and analysis of social data. The fact that UNICEF was addressing this activity, which was critical to effective programmes, was welcomed. The Regional Director acknowledged the importance of focusing on closing those gaps to better understand the situation of children and women. The same speaker said that the final CPR should contain more details, including results achieved, on programming in the area of early childhood care and development as it aimed to contribute to reform of the PHC system. He also pointed out that reproductive

health was not mentioned in the country note and hoped that as the final programme was developed, efforts would be made to coordinate activities in this area with the strong work supported by other donors in maternal health. The Regional Director said that UNICEF would take into account the comments on systematic support to PHC efforts and on ensuring that women's health activities were coordinated with efforts of others working in the area of reproductive health for women. Another delegation commented that the country note should have been more substantive in the steps UNICEF would take to protect and promote children's rights by ensuring that child-focused policies, programmes and projects were designed and linked to major structural reforms. The speaker added that the country note also failed to take into account the effects of the Government's agenda for decentralization, which could result in the devolution and fragmentation of responsibilities for children's services. In response, the Regional Director agreed with the views expressed about the potential danger that accompanied decentralization of responsibility and the possibility of the erosion of support for children's programmes. The delegation stressed that UNICEF needed to ensure that the Convention on the Rights of the Child was at the centre of policy if it was to be an effective instrument in combating child poverty and social exclusion. The point made on keeping children's rights a central focus in national policy would require UNICEF to examine carefully how to link the situation and the challenges facing children and women to the proposed structural reforms, taking into account both urban and rural situations.

58. With regard to the country note for Georgia, one delegation welcomed the strong focus on MCH activities, but expressed concern that this focus risked being diminished by the breadth of activities being planned across the entire programme. It was hoped that the final programme would reflect a greater prioritization of activities and resources to achieve the specific goals. In response, the Regional Director concurred with the need for clear priorities and, in terms of MCH activities, to ensure that UNICEF-supported activities were coordinated with the activities of others working in the country.

59. A speaker pointed out that the issue of reproductive health had not been dealt with in the Turkey country note, and he hoped that the final programme would address this area, indicating how UNICEF activities would be coordinated with the work of others if they are not specific partners in the UNICEF programme. The Regional Director said that UNICEF would take into account the need for closer collaboration with civil society organizations. UNICEF was also urged to ensure that the programme would address fewer objectives and include the specific results to be achieved. Another delegation reported on the problems to be addressed in the new country programme and expressed satisfaction with the humanitarian and disaster relief provided by UNICEF and the response of the Turkish National Committee for UNICEF following the earthquakes in 1999.

Middle East and North Africa

60. The Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa introduced the country note for the Syrian Arab Republic (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.18). He highlighted some of the new directions that programmes would be taking over the next few years in a number of countries in the region, some of which shared common features. The Syrian Arab Republic, among others, had achieved the majority of the World Summit for Children goals and was able to meet most of the survival and development needs of children. Thus, it would be possible, he said, to go beyond the medium-term goals and to fulfil the rights of all children, as well as to reduce in-country disparities and address protection and participation issues for the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

61. The consultative process put in place to examine achievements and shortcomings for the MTR of the programme of cooperation for the Syrian Arab Republic highlighted the need to address subnational disparities and child protection issues to assist the country in moving beyond goals to rights. The country note outlined the next country programme's proposed focus on reducing disparities, improving service quality, and promoting and monitoring fuller implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

62. Many delegations stressed the importance of focusing on subnational disparities. They also confirmed that the approach used by UNICEF corresponded to current needs in the country and expressed their satisfaction with efforts to address juvenile delinquency. A number of delegations stated that the document reflected the close collaboration among all actors concerned with the fulfilment of children's and women's rights in the country.

63. The Regional Director expressed his appreciation to the members of the Executive Board for their support. He pledged more regular contact with the missions in New York as full country programmes were developed for submission to the Board.

East Asia and the Pacific

64. The Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific introduced the country notes for Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Myanmar and Viet Nam (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.9-E/ICEF/2000/P/L.13, respectively). While the five country notes were prepared against diversified programming environments and offered unique features, UNICEF had tried to develop shared strategies and common approaches. The programme for Cambodia aimed to contribute to building a lasting peace through the provision of basic social services to its young generation and support for capacity development. The country note for China was developed in line with and reflected national priorities which would further guide the development of the National Plan of Action (NPA). The country note for Indonesia responded to the continuing crisis in the archipelago through strengthening family coping mechanisms, building on the country's social capital and community empowerment. The Regional Director informed the Board of the decision to present a separate CPR for East Timor to the Board at its second regular session in September. The country note for Myanmar had been developed in keeping with the historical mandate of UNICEF to help children in need, irrespective of the political circumstances and mindful of the views of all segments of Burmese society and General Assembly resolutions on the human rights situation in the country. The country note for Viet Nam had profited from the UNDAF exercise and the concurrent preparation of the CCA, and the programme would focus on 66 ethnic minority and underserved districts to reduce disparities and empower communities.

65. Several delegations commended the Cambodia country note which, they felt, reflected the reality of the country situation and was well targeted to the priorities of UNICEF. Another speaker expressed satisfaction with the good level of coordination between the UNICEF country programming exercise and the CCA and UNDAF processes. The same speaker called for continued attention to MCH and expressed concern with the allocation of only 8 per cent of programme funds to HIV/AIDS control. One delegation referred to the SWAP for education and stressed the need for increased coordination in this area. The same speaker emphasized the importance of child participation and urged that this element be strengthened in the country programme.

66. In response to the query about the low funding allocation to HIV/AIDS control programme, the Regional Director said that the HIV/AIDS situation in Cambodia was among the worst in the region; therefore, the country programme was the only one in the region with a separate component for HIV/AIDS control. In addition, all other components, such as education and health, contributed to HIV/AIDS control. The country also benefited from participation in the Mekong subregional programme in which Cambodia was one of the two priority countries to receive substantial resource allocation. He recognized the need for coordination and stronger involvement in the sector-wide programme for education and further acknowledged the contribution from the Government of Sweden to education programmes in Cambodia which had helped to improve the situation in the country.

67. The country note for China, including its rights-based approach, was supported by a number of speakers. In that connection, they wished to learn more about specific actions to raise awareness of the Convention on the Rights on the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In view of the situation with regard to infant and under-five mortality, UNICEF was urged to focus on gender differentials and disparities between the East and West of the country. The implications of the state reform on women were also highlighted, and one speaker wanted to know if adequate attention had been given to the issue of migrant workers, especially as a large number of their children did not have easy access to schools. The explicit emphasis on disaster preparedness built into the new programme was welcomed. However, the same speaker expressed concern about the direct linkage of the UNICEF programme to the NPA that was formulated every 10 years and suggested that this might impair the ability of UNICEF to respond to the rapid changes brought about by the ongoing reform initiatives. Concern was also expressed about the monitoring capacity of UNICEF when dealing with a programme that covered large geographical areas, and the issue was raised whether more emphasis should be given to monitoring and evaluation in the advocacy and social mobilization sector.

68. One delegation said that Government support to the efforts was not adequately reflected in the country note. Another speaker reported on national efforts, highlighting the need to improve access for people in the North and South-west of the country whose basic needs had yet to be met. The same speaker noted some of the emerging problems that were the focus of UNICEF cooperation, and reiterated the commitment of the Government to address these problems. Questions were also raised about UNICEF programme coverage versus that of other United Nations agencies, progress in the UNDAF process as well as in the search for new partnerships, and resource mobilization. Coordination among UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF in the area of maternal mortality reduction was welcomed, but, based on bilateral experiences, concern was raised about the lack of coordination within government counterparts. The same speaker requested that additional information on coordination with local NGOs be reflected, and questioned if the child labour issue would be given due attention in the new programme. The lack of reference in the country note to reproductive health as a priority area, as well as the importance of children's participation, was noted.

69. To the queries on the China country note, the Regional Director said that the direct link of the country note to the NPA would not impair the ability of UNICEF to respond to the changing situation. UNICEF had been invited to participate in the development of the NPA, and the finalized NPA would, in turn, guide the formulation of the country programme. He recognized the challenges in terms of monitoring in the vast areas of the country and added that while there were no staff posted outside Beijing, UNICEF had enjoyed excellent collaboration with national partners and staff were able to travel extensively. However, he

felt that with the expansion of the programme coverage to the West, UNICEF would need to rethink the form of some sort of presence and would pursue the issue with national authorities. In terms of the Government contribution to UNICEF cooperation, the Regional Director said that while the country note might not have adequately reflected the type and amount of the contribution, in reality, UNICEF support to the country had been very small. Without substantive Government support, the past programme would not have been viable. On the lack of reflection on gender disparity in the country note, the Regional Director agreed to provide further details in future programme documentation. He thanked the country's delegation for its statement, which had helped to clarify a number of questions from the Board.

70. In terms of programme coverage, the Regional Director explained that certain activities such as immunization, polio eradication and universal salt iodization (USI) were nationwide, while activities such as support to water and environmental sanitation and basic education were limited to 300 poor counties. Private sector participation in UNICEF cooperation was rather limited, but the Government had agreed to expand this area. In terms of collaboration with local NGOs, the Regional Director said that UNICEF had been working effectively with some local or semi-NGOs such as the All China Women's Federation. In HIV/AIDS control, UNICEF had been collaborating with some Buddhist groups in Yunnan province, which was part of the Mekong subregional programme. Regarding the floating (migrant) population, the Regional Director indicated that the situation analysis had identified the problem, and although not a major area of cooperation so far, UNICEF was working with the Government to develop appropriate approaches and strategies to tackle the problems.

71. Several delegations commended the frankness of the Indonesia country note in presenting the situation and lessons learned. The importance of establishing clear indicators so that the impact of the programme could be evaluated was stressed, as was the need for close coordination not only with the Government, but also with other multilateral and bilateral agencies. UNICEF was urged to continue working with traditional partners in addressing the gaps in maternal mortality, ARI and the expanded programme on immunization. Linkages needed to be built between UNICEF-supported interventions and SWAPs. The same delegation commented on collaboration with WHO in both West and East Timor. Appreciation was also expressed for the Executive Director's report on her visit to Indonesia, which had helped the Board gain a more accurate picture of the country's situation. The strategic focus that would help to strengthen the coping mechanism of families and communities with the worsening situation was welcomed, and appreciation was expressed for the geographical concentration of the proposed new programme, with the hope that flexibility would be retained to respond to unforeseen emergencies.

72. On the Indonesia programme, the Regional Director reassured delegations that UNICEF would stay the course on child survival and MCH programmes, and continue to work with traditional partners. In terms of the need for additional resources, he shared the concern about Indonesia's declining gross national product per capita and clarified that the regular resources funding allocation would be reviewed based on the formula and system that have been approved by the Board. In addition, the Regional Director confirmed that a separate CPR for East Timor would be prepared for the September Board session. As it would be a short-duration programme of less than five year, a country note would not be required. However, both the strategy component as well as programme content would be presented in the document. The Executive Director also commented on collaboration among agencies during her recent visit to both East and West Timor.

73. Regarding the Myanmar country note, several delegations questioned the credibility of the Government in providing conditions conducive for international cooperation that would lead to sustainable development and wondered if UNICEF could be fully effective in such an environment. Other speakers asked if a more restrictive approach such as that of UNDP would merit consideration and urged better coordination and consistency among United Nations agencies in delivering aid programmes. The view was also expressed that the CCA could help further examine the programming environment.

74. In response to a number of observations on the difficult environment for effective international presence in Myanmar and whether UNICEF should take an approach similar to that of UNDP, the Regional Director said that UNICEF cooperation had a mixed record of some very successful examples (high and sustained levels of immunization, good record of vitamin A distribution, salt iodization ,and improved access to environmental sanitation) and some less successful ones (basic education where the primary enrolment and completion rates remained the lowest in the region). Even so, UNICEF involvement in two basic education projects had helped schools in the assisted areas to achieve a completion rate of over 70 per cent and this success could be replicated. Most universities remain closed and UNICEF had discussed the situation with the Government. He said that there was also much to be achieved in the area of HIV/AIDS control, and it had been a part of UNICEF efforts at the subregional level. UNICEF-supported activities such as polio eradication should not be limited to a small number of townships, and the same held true for USI and immunization. He urged the Board to give more encouragement to the Government to allow UNICEF to be involved in assisting the internally displaced populations which were in camps and resettlement villages in the border areas. The Regional Director expressed satisfaction with the current collaboration among United Nations agencies, but agreed that the development of a CCA would further promote such collaboration.

75. Some delegations welcomed the integrated approach outlined in the Viet Nam country note. In commenting on the strategy development that was based on lessons learned, one speaker felt that the programme seemed too ambitious. The delegation appealed for closer collaboration with other partners such as the World Bank and NGOs in areas such as MCH and HIV/AIDS control. The goals of the country note were considered appropriate and the sharper focus on fewer districts was welcomed. The secretariat was requested to provide more information on the programme linkage to the poverty reduction activities of other agencies. Appreciation was expressed for the role of UNICEF in SWAPs, and the organization was urged to strengthen its involvement in the UNDAF process. It was brought to the attention of the Board that both child disability and child participation had not received sufficient attention in the country note. The consultative process leading to the formulation of the programme strategy was welcomed by one speaker, who also highlighted the need for strengthening monitoring and accountability, especially at the district level, in view of the SWAPs.

76. The Regional Director explained that while the Viet Nam programme might appear broad and ambitious, it focused on 66 districts representing the most deprived geographic areas with low coverage of social services. He also agreed with the suggestion that UNICEF should increase its participation in the UNDAF process and informed the Board of the current leadership role of UNICEF in a number of working groups.

77. In response to the general issues raised by one delegation in terms of monitoring, which did not seem to have been given adequate attention in all of

the country notes, the Regional Director welcomed the suggestions, but also listed a number of monitoring and evaluation activities such as the end-decade goal reviews, the multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS) in all countries and periodic reviews on programme progress. He also confirmed that more attention would be given to the rights for child participation and encouraged countries to share their experiences in this regard. The Executive Director also shared her observations with the Board on UNICEF work in the areas of education and health. She concurred with the observation on the need for better reporting on programme results.

South Asia

78. The Regional Director for South Asia introduced the country note for Bangladesh (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.14), and also briefed the Board on recent regional trends and UNICEF priorities in South Asia. While Bangladesh had made significant progress in many areas, it was still faced with many challenges. The core cross-cutting strategies proposed for the new programme aimed to address gender inequity, build the capacity of state and civil society institutions responsible for programme implementation and provide support for decentralization. He described the SWAPs for the health and nutrition programmes and the evolution of the UNDAF/CCA process. He further reported on regional trends and briefly addressed the problem of arsenicosis.

79. As requested by the Executive Board at its September 1999 session, the Executive Director made an oral presentation on the issue of arsenic contamination of drinking water in Bangladesh. Both the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director undertook missions to Bangladesh during 1999. During her visit, the Executive Director met the Prime Minister and other government officials and was able to see the real situation first hand. It was a large-scale emerging challenge which represented a serious health and human crisis, and remained complex and multidimensional. Many critical questions remained unanswered, and the development of responses was evolving. The imperative, she said, was to act quickly.

80. Coordinated efforts were being mobilized among United Nations agencies and international financial institutions under the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh through the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. UNICEF currently chaired the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Water Resources, which was finalizing a collective monograph on the state-of-the-art knowledge to guide the design of mitigation interventions. Collective responses had been developed to achieve four objectives: to identify and mark contaminated tube-wells; to provide alternative water sources; to respect people's rights to knowledge; and to pursue scientific and medical investigations. UNICEF, which had been involved in all of these activities, had focused on supporting the testing of existing wells to help identify and provide safe and alternative sources, mass communication efforts and health management. UNICEF would be working in partnership with the Government; other national and local collaborators such as the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, Dhaka Community Hospitals and Grameen Bank; agencies such as WHO, the World Bank and the International Atomic Energy Agency; and bilateral agencies such as the Department for International Development (United Kingdom).

81. The Executive Director noted that in Bangladesh in the early 1980s, 132 children out of 1,000 born died in infancy, and 250,000 children died from diarrhoea before they reached the age of five years due to unsafe surface water. Ten years later, infant deaths have been halved through the use of tube-wells, along with improved sanitation, hygiene and diarrhoea case management. The

challenge, she said, was to protect the remarkable progress made, while responding to this naturally occurring phenomenon of arsenic contamination in a timely and appropriate manner. She reassured the Board of the organization's commitment to respond to this situation, expressing confidence that UNICEF was moving in the right direction to protect the lives of children and women in Bangladesh.

82. Several delegations welcomed the Bangladesh country note, but a few of them expressed concern about its quality. They said that it lacked details on the lessons learned; provided little analysis on key issues, e.g. institutional weakness; provided limited elaboration on the rights-based approach to programming; and made a broad statement of the strategies with no reference to the development context and targets. In addition, there was inadequate explanation of how UNICEF efforts would affect the programme outcomes and little information about donor coordination, the linkage to the UNDAF process and the role of UNICEF in SWAPs. On the other hand, several speakers welcomed the programme strategies related to linking women's rights issues, such as domestic violence against women and early obstetric care in maternal mortality reduction, while highlighting the need to eliminate child labour and trafficking of women and children. Appreciation was also expressed for the focus on the critical stages of the life cycle and capacity-building. The secretariat was requested to ensure that the additional information already provided in the Regional Director's presentation was included in the future programming document.

83. The delegation of the country reiterated its Government's concurrence with the priorities outlined in the country note and noted the Government's collaboration with UNICEF in the SWAPs for health and nutrition. He reported further on the Government's focus on gender equity, women's health, the quality of education, the decentralization process and collaboration with NGOs, while highlighting the resource constraints of UNICEF in supporting implementation of the proposed programme activities. The emphasis on natural disaster preparedness and emergency relief efforts was welcomed, but it was felt that there was a need for increased emphasis on reproductive health. One delegation commended UNICEF collaboration with the Government and USAID as reflected in the country note. Another speaker encouraged more local procurement.

84. Several delegations welcomed the emphasis in the country note on issues such as birth registration, hard-to-reach children, and life skills to prevent early marriages through integrated approaches. However, they wondered whether elements such as non-discrimination and participation were built into the education programme and whether they would help children to be aware of their rights to survival and development. In terms of participation, a speaker wanted to know if the views of children as well as those of parents were reflected in the curriculum development. The rights and specific needs of disabled children should also have been reflected in the country note.

85. In response to queries from the Board, the country's delegation further described Government efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to encourage community participation in education. On the issue of the arsenic contamination, the delegation noted that while affordable technology such as tube-wells helped to reduce the incidence of cholera and diarrhoea, there were still 23 million people who had suffered from the arsenic contamination. None the less, the delegation agreed that the solutions were still based on hypotheses and not conclusive and, therefore, emphasized that future interventions should focus on providing knowledge to the general public about the contamination; developing technology for comprehensive testing; providing not only the short-terms solutions, but also working on long-term

strategies; improving community education; and ensuring effective coordination and adequate funding. The delegation acknowledged support from UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank and WHO and also called for an open structure which would allow other donors to participate in the effort. Several speakers welcomed UNICEF efforts with regard to the arsenic contamination, with the Government fulfilling the role of coordination. Some delegations cautioned, however, that this coordination should not distract United Nations' efforts for other water and sanitation problems and that the duplication of mechanisms already established by the Government should be avoided.

86. The Regional Director acknowledged several deficiencies in the country note such as the lack of analysis of the broader development context and of lessons learned, and regretted that while substantive discussions did in fact occur at the country level, they were not adequately reflected in the country note. The Regional Director reassured the Board that future documentation would adequately reflect these issues. In terms of UNICEF involvement in the SWAPs for health and nutrition, the Regional Director said that while UNICEF had not committed resources in the common fund, it had been involved in the discussions with various partners and was a major partner in project implementation. In terms of the quality of education, the Regional Director shared with the Board examples of UNICEF-supported interventions that addressed the concerns of child participation and gender equity.

87. On the issue of procurement, the Regional Director emphasized the growing volume of local procurement in Bangladesh in recent years and acknowledged that in 1999 alone, essential drugs in the amount of $18 million were purchased. While UNDAF started later than the UNICEF country programming exercise, the strategy development reflected the UNDAF. Regarding integrated approaches, the Regional Director said while it was not sufficiently covered in the country note, UNICEF was making efforts to break the sectoral barriers in programme development and implementation.

Europe

88. The Regional Director for Europe provided an overview of development in that region. The Geneva Regional Office (GRO) had been working intensely with its major partners, the National Committees for UNICEF, to prepare for the enormous challenges that UNICEF would face in the new millennium. In cooperation with PSD, GRO had implemented a Joint Planning Process with eight pilot countries to assess and monitor activities in all sectors of their work. This had led to the development of a multi-year strategic plan that spelled out each National Committees' overall goals and the support to be provided by UNICEF in this effort. In 2000, the process would be launched with a second group of countries, with the aim of implementing it with all 37 National Committees by the end of 2001. In addition, a Nordic Market Review had been undertaken to focus on the unique characteristics of the four National Committees, while examining common regional interests. The Regional Director also reported that the GRO was now responsible for all negotiations on the allocation of National Committees' funds and reporting back on their utilization, which would respond to the rationale of the new MYFF. The Board was also briefed on new developments with the European Union and the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO).

89. One delegation wanted to know whether attempts had been made to establish links between the National Committees as well as with the activities of National Committees and those of similar groups in developing countries. The Regional Director replied that the country programme was the focus of activities and that linkages between some of the National Committees followed a very strict

framework. Another speaker said that as the Board should be involved with the communication and commercial policies of UNICEF, the Regional Director should continue to keep the Board informed of developments with National Committees. He also supported the strengthening of their relationship. The Regional Director assured delegations that this subject would be a regular part of Board deliberations. UNICEF, he said, would continue to work to improve its relationship with ECHO. Moreover, Board members who were members of ECHO were urged to encourage its collaboration with UNICEF. In response to a query about the role of National Committees, the Regional Director noted their importance for fund-raising, while acknowledging that their roles in areas such as advocacy, children's rights and education for development were also essential elements.

Recommendations for additional regular resources for approved country programmes

90. The Executive Board approved the recommendations for additional regular resources for 10 country programmes and the one-year extension of the current programme cycles of two country programmes as contained in document E/ICEF/2000/P/L.19. (See annex II, decision 2000/2.)

C. Multi-year funding framework

91. The Executive Board had before it a report on the proposed MYFF (E/ICEF/2000/5), which was introduced by the Executive Director. She recalled that the report had been prepared in response to decision 1999/8 (E/ICEF/1999/7/Rev.1), which requested the Executive Director to submit a plan on the timing of the presentation to the Board of the various elements of the multi-year framework, with a view to try to enhance their interlinkages. She said that the annual session would consolidate all elements of reporting on results, as well as provide an opportunity to present and discuss policy issues. The second regular Board session would focus on planning, while the focus of the first regular session would be on the budget and financial resources and strategic programme issues. She described the four elements of the paper, noting that the proposal contained therein had been the outcome of extensive debate and review. She said that UNICEF saw the development of the MYFF as an opportunity to strengthen results-based management for enhanced programme excellence in the context of UNICEF as a learning organization.

92. Board members welcomed the proposed MYFF as a significant step forward, with one delegation describing it as a landmark in the process of strengthening results-based management for improved programme performance in UNICEF. Several delegations noted the importance of the framework both as an internal management tool to help sharpen the strategic focus of the organization and as a means to strengthen reporting on results. Other speakers highlighted its utility in ensuring adequate and predictable funding levels. A number of delegations emphasized that the MYFF was a means to an end, which would produce better results for children. The secretariat recalled the long UNICEF tradition of results-based programmes and processes, pledging to continue working to strengthen such approaches.

93. The extensive work that had gone into the preparation of the document was commended by numerous delegations. They commented particularly on the positive nature of the broad consultative processes followed, including consultations with UNFPA, UNDP and bilateral donors; informal consultations and briefings with Executive Board members; and discussions within UNICEF at all levels. One speaker noted that the transparency of the process had contributed to a superior

document. Several speakers expressed the hope that such positive collaboration would continue to guide efforts in the future as work on implementation of the MYFF proceeds. Interest in further collaborative efforts was confirmed by the secretariat.

94. Several speakers noted, as per the document under review, that with the main elements of the MYFF already in place, further efforts could continue to build on these and they could be consolidated into a coherent system. Many of them referred to the necessarily iterative nature of the process of development and implementation of the MYFF, which would involve a process of trial and error and learning by doing. In this regard, the UNICEF view of the MYFF as an evolving "work in progress" was understood and accepted.

95. Several speakers spoke about the challenge of implementation of MYFF, stressing the importance of its full understanding and "ownership" at all levels within UNICEF. One delegation noted that the main lesson learned from its own implementation of a similar framework was that primacy needs to be given to the country programme. It was essential, therefore, that country office personnel made this approach their own. This was reaffirmed in the secretariat's response.

96. Analytical reporting on results linked to objectives and budget was identified as a core element of the framework. It was recognized that building an effective reporting system, with an analytical focus on actual results achieved against planned objectives, required a gradual process and presented a common challenge shared by other agencies. Delegations looked forward in this regard to reviewing the analytical results-oriented reporting to be presented in part II of the Executive Director's annual report. Several speakers acknowledged the complexity of issues related to "attribution", with efforts needed to distinguish as clearly as possible between results most directly attributable to UNICEF and development changes arising from larger processes. At the same time, UNICEF was urged not to let its heightened focus on programme results detract from its analysis of and reporting on the results of external processes and broader trends affecting children. The secretariat responded that issues of attribution would be dealt with in part by a clearer definition in the CPR of the specific areas of focus for UNICEF, with agreement that attribution was clearest at the activity level. At the same time, UNICEF would not neglect wider analysis of results for children independent of its own interventions.

97. One delegation asked how UNICEF planned to report on results only partly achieved or not at all. Other delegations raised questions about the link between results reported and funding levels. One delegation suggested that implementation of the MYFF would help to determine at what point a decision could be made to continue or discontinue programmes based on results. Noting, however, that the MYFF was not intended to introduce any element of conditionality or distort programme priorities, two speakers stressed that difficulties in achieving results should not lead to a decrease in funding, rather in a reorientation of programme approaches that work. Conversely, another speaker that countries that had achieved significant results should not be penalized for such achievements through lower funding levels, since continued funding was needed for sustainability. It was stated that both donors and programme countries would agree that convincing results should lead to increased funding. The secretariat noted its intention to be as consistent and complete in the reporting obligation as possible, particularly in the annual report, including providing an analysis of why things were not going well.

98. A few delegations evoked issues related to the aggregation of results at a global level based on country-level reporting. A question was raised about the

steps taken to institutionalize reporting mechanisms among country, regional and headquarters levels. The importance of basing global reporting on country-level reports was addressed by one delegation, while another emphasized the activity level as the key focus for reporting on results in the most transparent manner. The secretariat confirmed that more work was needed on the issue of aggregation of results.

99. Two delegations responded positively to the proposal to identify particular intended themes for in-depth annual reporting, suggesting that the Executive Board participate in the choice of these results. The secretariat responded that UNICEF looked forward to meeting with members of the Board on a forward-looking agenda of thematic areas for reporting focus, noting that the regional reports to the Board on major evaluations and MTRs could also be viewed in this light.

100. One delegation expressed agreement with flexibility for the Executive Director to adjust the post pyramid, highlighting the importance of the proposal to incorporate a reporting mechanism into the MYFF to ensure transparency.

101. Several speakers made comments on and raised questions about issues related to indicators used to measure results. A few delegations stressed that a focus on measuring performance should not preclude qualitative assessment of processes, urging that both quantitative and qualitative indicators of progress should be developed, particularly in relation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. One delegation wanted to know when the Board could expect such indicators to be presented. A number of speakers stressed the need for coherence/collaboration with other agencies in the development of indicators, with one wanting to know how the choice of indicators would fit into the UNDAF exercise. Other speakers mentioned the importance of collaboration from country offices in indicator development. The need for simplicity and "user-friendliness" in the choice and application of indicators and performance measurement systems was also emphasized. The secretariat responded that consultative processes were under way to develop qualitative indicators for such areas as communication for behaviour change, capacity-building and adolescent health. Other indicators, including those related to Convention, were currently being tested in the MICS being conducted to assess progress towards the World Summit for Children goals. The indicator framework in the CCA guidelines represented consensus among United Nations agencies, including UNICEF.

102. Delegations expressed agreement that the current medium-term plan (MTP) would remain valid through 2001, with the next medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) to cover 2002-2005 and to be developed on the basis of analysis of results from the first MTP. A few delegations requested additional information about the process of identifying objectives and core result areas in the new MTSP and the future Global Agenda for Children. One delegation evoked the need for better-defined objectives and outputs against which to measure results, a feature missing from the current MTP. Some speakers stressed the importance of mechanisms to ensure a fit between such global planning processes and country programme planning processes, with one stressing the importance of UNICEF actions being guided by the needs of children at the country level. Two delegations urged that flexibility be maintained in the objectives of the proposed fixed four-year MTSP to enable appropriate responses to changing conditions on the ground. The secretariat responded that there was a direct connection between the Global Agenda for Children and the core result areas identified. They noted the primacy of the country programming process, which allows for flexibility and variation on the ground, with well-established mechanisms such as the MTR, and annual review and strategy meetings providing

opportunities to modify country programme structures, as appropriate. More specific objectives and indicators were being identified for the next MTSP, which would help in reporting on results at the country level as well as globally.

103. A number of delegations raised questions about the status of programme coding, the application of financial systems and the establishment of links to programmes. One delegation queried whether the coding system based on medium-term priorities would have to be revised every four years, or if it would be broad enough to ensure a continuing fit. The same delegation requested information on progress made in country-level reporting on regular and other resources. The secretariat informed that the Financial and Logistics System had been on-line since the beginning of 1999, and the Programme Manager System had been operational in all offices by the end of 1999, with ongoing efforts being made to clear up remaining problems and work towards integration. Delegations were also informed that an effort to broaden the available coding of the Programme Information Data Base was under way partly in anticipation of the next MTSP and emerging issues, with the electronic nature of the system amenable to relatively easy revisions thereafter. While separate reporting on regular resources as distinct from other resources was not performed at the country level, UNICEF could make a global analysis by type of funding.

104. In general, delegations supported the proposed timing of presentations to the Board; however, a few queries as well as the need for further consideration were raised. One delegation noted that the timing of the proposed funding event did not coincide with that of UNDP or UNFPA and was also delinked from the report on results achieved. Another delegation requested further clarification on the impact of the new timing on harmonization with other funds. A few speakers questioned the timing of the biennial support budget approval at the first regular Board session. Other delegations wondered whether the early pledging event would accommodate variability in national budgeting processes, stressing that flexibility was needed in this regard. The secretariat responded that preliminary analysis suggested that the proposed timing of the pledging session would be a major step forward in determining clear resource availability at an earlier time, and assured delegations that they would be kept informed of the outcome of discussions on budgetary processes with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. (See annex II, decision 2000/3, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

D. Funding meeting

105. The Executive Director opened the funding meeting by recalling that the Executive Board, in decision 1999/8, agreed that Governments able to do so would announce each year, at the first regular session of the Board, their voluntary contributions to UNICEF regular resources and their payment schedules. She indicated that the funding meeting constituted an important element of the MYFF. She referred to the letter she had sent to all United Nations Member States, which explained that the purpose of the meeting was to obtain increased resources in a manner that would make regular resources more certain and predictable and would assure greater burden-sharing among Governments.

106. In presenting an analysis of letters of response received from Member States, the Executive Director referred to the matrix contained in "Pledges for 2000 (as of 28 January 2000)" (E/ICEF/2000/CRP.4). (See annex I for an updated matrix.) She recognized that some Member States had not been able to communicate in writing their contributions to regular resources, and stated that she looked

forward to hearing from them at the funding meeting, or as soon thereafter as possible, hopefully by April.

107. The Executive Director provided an analysis of the responses received. Forty-eight countries had pledged $251 million, which represented 68 per cent of MTP projections for government contributions. Of these 48 countries, 14 had indicated increases over their previous contributions. Eight Governments had provided precise payment dates. Five and four countries, respectively, had made tentative pledges for 2000 and 2001. Six out of 10 of the largest donors had pledged 65.5 per cent of the MTP government funding target for 2000. Seven of the 21 Development Assistance Committee countries had made pledges for the year 2000. Of these seven Governments, two had increased their pledges over the previous year, one had decreased its pledge, and the rest had maintained their pledges at the same level. Twenty-seven programme countries had made pledges for the year 2000.

108. The Executive Director thanked programme countries for their support and indicated that in addition to contributions to regular resources, four pledges had been made to support the local operating costs of country offices. She noted that on the basis of the pledges received, she believed it would be possible to meet the MTP projections for government contributions for the year 2000.

109. The Executive Director opened the floor of the funding meeting. Thirty-two delegations made interventions: 13 delegations of programme countries; and 19 delegations of donor countries. Taking into account firm pledges, indicative pledges and the statements of those unable to make pledges at that point in time, but who expected to exceed current levels of support (using the current levels of support), the total government contributions at current exchange rates amounted to 94.4 per cent of the MTP projection of $363 million from Governments for the year 2000.

110. Many delegations endorsed the MYFF, and several linked their pledges to their commitment to the funding framework. In making their announcements, a number of delegations commended the work of UNICEF. Delegations from programme countries commented on the symbolic nature of their contributions, revealing their Governments' intention to convey, through their support, their sincere appreciation to UNICEF and the importance attached to the work of the organization. In addition, some delegations of programme countries announced contributions to local costs.

E. Report of the Executive Director: Annual report to the Economic and Social Council

111. The Director, Office of United Nations Affairs and External Relations, introduced the Executive Director's annual report to the Economic and Social Council (E/ICEF/2000/4 (Part I)). He provided an update of activities that had occurred since completion of the report, and noted that a paper on outstanding issues would be prepared for the Economic and Social Council by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), with the full participation of UNICEF. This paper would also provide an update on United Nations reform.

112. Several delegations expressed their satisfaction with the content, structure and format of the report. There was a proposal by one delegation, with support from a number of others, that more information be provided on follow-up to international conferences and summits, particularly the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the International

Conference on Education for All. The Director informed the Board that the next report would include more material on the role of UNICEF in follow-up to conferences and most likely would contain less information on reform issues, which could be covered in the UNDG consolidated list of issues and by such methods as the participation of country teams in joint meetings of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UNDP/UNFPA.

113. Responding to questions concerning support for country offices, the Director stated that an innovative component of support in the UNDAF/CCA process was a pool of 20 to 25 facilitators from the United Nations Secretariat, funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, who would be deployed at the request of country teams at critical times in the process. UNICEF had committed two staff members to this exercise. These facilitators would be available for up to four weeks per year and would wear "United Nations hats" while on assignment.

114. A number of delegations raised questions concerning the relationship of UNICEF to the World Bank, and between the UNDAF/CCA and the Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) processes. The Director stated that cooperation with the World Bank was important for many reasons, including the fact that the Bank was a partner in the Administrative Committee on Cooperation/Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions machinery and, therefore, an integral part of the development of UNDAFs and CCAs, poverty frameworks and conference follow-up. The Bank had been involved in most UNDAF/CCA processes to date. The CDF process was still evolving and existed currently in only a limited number of countries. There were four countries which had both UNDAF/CCA and CDF mechanisms, and in two, Mali and Viet Nam, UNICEF was looking at the relationship between the two. Whatever relationship might evolve, the secretariat emphasized that the Government would take the lead in both processes. With regard to the CCA, the World Bank had indicated that it would provide significant input in assessment of the country situation.

115. Country-level follow-up to conferences was undertaken with a view to ensuring consistency of approach among United Nations agencies, primarily through the Administrative Committee on Coordination machinery. Starting with the three inter-agency task forces, including one on Basic Social Services for All, the Committee developed detailed guidelines for coordination. Poverty eradication was the over-arching theme for conference follow-up. The UNDAF/CCA processes, under the leadership of Governments, took as one of its fundamental building blocks the follow-up to conferences.

116. The Director stated that capacity-building was a major priority for UNICEF and the entire United Nations system. Work done on the assessment, monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building was undertaken in a programmatic manner, drawing on UNICEF experiences and those of external partners, including bilateral development agencies. The process of developing a conceptual framework and appropriate monitoring and evaluation tools was leading to a clearer definition of the various interpretations of capacity-building and, thereby, to a sharper focus on more effective programmes. The Director stated that capacity-building could not be done programme by programme or agency by agency. Therefore, UNICEF had joined with the United Nations system in developing a system-wide set of guidelines.

117. Regarding the training of peacekeepers on issues related to children's rights, UNICEF membership on the Executive Committee on Peace and Security provided the opportunity to advocate further and build on the work being done in

collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop training packages for peacekeepers.

118. A number of delegations expressed their concern over the low number UNICEF staff, and especially female staff, serving as resident coordinators. The Executive Director stated that this was a high priority for the organization. She reported that in addition to staff members serving as resident coordinators, UNICEF currently had staff seconded to East Timor, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNAIDS and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships. Concerning the appointment of women, UNICEF was looking into ways to increase the numbers, either through fast-tracking of female staff members currently at the mid-management level or going outside the system to Governments and other institutions. In those cases, candidates would need to spend time in deputy posts to become familiar with the United Nations system and other organizations.

119. On the harmonization of procedures, UNICEF was working to go beyond the harmonization of budget formats and terminology, which had been completed a year ago. Working within the UNDG, three new areas were being examined: guidelines for joint MTRs; common formats for joint programmes; and the remuneration of project personnel. There was already standardization of a range of common services, starting with travel and conference servicing. The Director stated that there existed a database of experiences in 130 countries. Individuals from the funds and programmes were reviewing CCAs/UNDAFs in nine countries from a "lessons learned" perspective (sharing lessons and good practices, monitoring progress and application of guidelines, etc.). (See annex II, decision 2000/4, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

F. Report on the second session of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health

120. The report of the second session of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA CCH (E/ICEF/2000/7), held at WHO Headquarters in Geneva on 2 and 3 December 1999, was introduced by two members of the Committee. They described briefly the content of the report and emphasized the high priority that was given during the session to follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The primary areas of consideration before the CCH were maternal mortality, adolescent health, mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and immunization.

121. It was generally felt to have been a positive and open meeting, and the presence of the heads of the three organizations was extremely valuable. The Committee agreed, however, that in order for the meeting to be more productive, perhaps its terms of reference could be interpreted liberally so that meetings could be held more often, thus making the agenda more relevant and allowing for continuity of participation and follow-up. It was further agreed that the agenda should contain fewer items and that there should be far fewer action points in the final report. It was suggested that the majority of members of the CCH have a technical background, a point supported by delegations. Meeting deliberations should include a presentation by a country team to demonstrate and evaluate activities of the three agencies.

122. It was further agreed that reporting should use a common format and that CCH members should request their Boards to review membership so that the same person could hold the appointment over time. In the ensuing Board discussion of the report, a number of delegations agreed that meeting every two years was

perhaps not conducive to achieving the objectives of the Committee. Delegations also supported continuity of membership.

123. In its report, the CCH promoted coordinated planning at the country level. Increased political commitment and national leadership in key countries was emphasized, and the creation of maternal theme groups, with international agencies and national stakeholders, was suggested. A number of delegations raised concerns, however, as to whether theme groups were necessary for adolescent and women's health.

124. One delegation stated that there were ethical issues involved in infant feeding practices of HIV-positive mothers. This was a very important area for UNICEF, which was working closely with WHO to follow up on studies conducted the previous year. Preliminary findings suggested that exclusive breastfeeding might be less likely to transmit infection than mixed feeding. Some delegations expressed an interest in having further information on the pilot projects that UNICEF was supporting for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and the use of suitable anti-retroviral drugs. A few delegations highlighted the importance of taking a broad perspective in dealing with the issue of HIV/AIDS and questioned how responsibilities were being distributed among the agencies.

125. Polio eradication efforts were also reviewed during the meeting. A number of delegations stressed the importance of raising additional funds very quickly if the disease was to be eliminated by the end of 2000. In certain countries, United Nations agencies needed to review the decline in immunization coverage and the capacity-building efforts required. The creation of GAVI was commended.

126. The importance of SWAPs was also emphasized by many delegations, which stressed that United Nations agencies were supporting interventions in the context of health sector reform efforts. This would enhance the harmonization of donor and government assistance as well as improve sustainability of development efforts.

127. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the efforts made by all three agencies and the work undertaken in both the preparation and coordination of the CCH session. A number of delegations concurred that the agenda should be pared down considerably, since too many issues had been addressed during the second session. The Executive Director agreed that the number of topics addressed needed to be reduced. However, since the session had been devoted to ICPD follow-up, which addressed a broad range of issues, there were more agenda items than would usually be the case.

128. Some delegations stated that since there were 33 action points that required follow-up, it would be very difficult for all agencies to report on all recommendations. There was a need to focus on the most relevant, and the three agencies needed to review the division of responsibilities.

129. Observations of the Executive Board would be conveyed to WHO and UNFPA. The next session of the CCH would be held early in 2001, and preference was expressed that it be held in New York. (See annex II, decision 2000/5, for the text of the decision adopted by the Executive Board.)

G. Other matters

130. Noting that recent Executive Board sessions were taking fewer days than scheduled, one delegation suggested that two 5-day sessions would be preferable to three sessions, so as to utilize the time fully.

H. Closing of the session

131. In her closing remarks, the Executive Director expressed appreciation to the Board on behalf of the secretariat. She said that discussions on the country notes and on managing for results had been very fruitful. Although she had not been present for the discussion on PSD, she understood that it, too, had been very useful. She appreciated the dialogue and looked forward to informal meetings that would be held during the year in addition to the formal sessions. She referred to a recent luncheon briefing on children in situations of conflict, and stated that it was the intent of the secretariat to continue these type of briefings and requested the participation of the Board. She hoped that delegations would call on the secretariat throughout the year for any information they might need.

132. The President noted the comprehensive nature of the session, which included the first time the MYFF had been discussed and the first time that there had been a funding meeting. He announced that a draft statement on the joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNICEF and UNDP/UNFPA, with the participation of WFP, which was held on 31 January, had been circulated and was being shared with UNDP and WFP. He noted that the President of the Executive Board of WFP suggested that the next joint meeting be held in Rome, as the three others had been held in New York.

133. The President relayed a suggestion made to him that during the annual session for the year 2000, the chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child should address the Board to report on what the Committee had done the previous year. As regards the length of sessions, he agreed that perhaps the duration could be reduced to four days.

134. He notified the Board that the following week, the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee for the General Assembly Special Session for Follow-up to the World Summit for Children in 2001 would be held, and he urged all members to participate actively in the process. The chairperson of the Preparatory Committee had suggested that a joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Preparatory Committee and the UNICEF Executive Board be held.

III. JOINT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF UNICEF AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME/UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

135. The President of the UNICEF Executive Board opened the joint meeting. He informed the Boards that a presidents' statement would be circulated later in the week. The Secretary of the Planning Commission of the Government of India introduced the UNDAF for India. He noted that the UNDAF could engender far-reaching changes in the manner in which the United Nations system functioned in India, which could improve both its effectiveness and the recognition it received. The process of developing the UNDAF had been one of close collaboration between the United Nations system and the Government. He underlined that the primary objectives included in the UNDAF represented the collective decisions of a wide range of government agencies, including the Planning Commission, which had served as the focal point.

136. The UNDAF for India had two main objectives, gender equality and decentralization, both critical elements of the Government's Ninth Five-Year Plan. The objectives were chosen for their relevance to United Nations agency mandates and were determined to be precise enough to give adequate focus in programme design, implementation and evaluation. He noted that in addition to the Government, such stakeholders as civil society organizations, academic institutions and businesses had been involved.

137. With regard to gender equality, a targeted approach to the physical and economic welfare of women was required, reinforced at every possible point by the society at large and development agencies. For the objective of decentralization, accountability was a key element, in which localized services needed to include delivery that was accountable to the people who were served.

138. The United Nations Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in India cited the 50 years of United Nations system cooperation with the Government, which had addressed a range of development priorities. She noted that the Minister of External Affairs of India had recently made a plea for development to be the cross-cutting theme of the United Nations, and he called for strengthening the United Nations development system. India itself had reached many development milestones, she underlined, with the United Nations development system contribution constituting less than 6 per cent of official development assistance, which in turn was only a fraction of India's total development effort. In that regard, the United Nations system contribution could be seen more in terms of ideas, exchange of expertise and pilot projects which had been widely replicated. United Nations organizations were already working closely with the Government on the two objectives of the UNDAF. It was believed that greater synergy among the organizations would bring greater effectiveness.

139. The UNFPA representative in India described the process of developing the UNDAF, beginning with the establishment of a task force in 1997. Gender equality was selected as the first objective, as it cut across the work of all United Nations organizations and required a holistic approach, which included the Government, NGOs and other partners. A workshop held in early 1999 identified decentralization, a process that had been growing in importance in India since 1992, as the second focus area for the UNDAF. Decentralization was also seen as a means to correct gender imbalances and promote women's empowerment. As a next step, the goals to be achieved in gender equality were defined: (a) renegotiation of gender relations within the household and the community; (b) greater access and control over resources by women; (c) expanded participation

of women in all spheres, including reproductive decisions, political institutions and the marketplace; and (d) greater discussion and dialogue on policies and legislation on equal rights for men and women. As regards decentralization, the following focus areas were defined: (a) participation in decision-making by the least advantaged groups, including women; (b) enhanced effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of basic social services as a result of community management; and © greater transparency and accountability of local government programmes.

140. The WFP representative in India discussed the operational objectives of the UNDAF process, noting that the United Nations system had more organizations in India than in any other country and covered a wider range of mandates. The UNDAF process would facilitate harmonization of programming cycles and operational procedures among the United Nations organizations and with the Government. As a first step in operationalizing the UNDAF, areas of collaboration were identified. With regard to gender equality, it was determined that a gender policy assessment, including the development of tools and indicators, would provide a frame of reference for choosing priority areas. Collaborative actions between organizations, parallel programmes based on a common problem and joint programmes or projects developed by several United Nations bodies were under consideration. The United Nations system would work with the Government to ensure that both objectives of the UNDAF were included in the Government's next five-year plan.

141. The UNICEF representative in India cited the dialogue to improve collaboration and development activities as one of the most interesting features of the UNDAF process. Areas of cooperation had included a common position paper on child labour, work in HIV/AIDS through UNAIDS, primary education and, in response to the super cyclone in Orissa in October 1999, collaborative efforts through the United Nations Disaster Management Team. United Nations organizations were beginning to re-examine their programmes, taking into account the promotion of gender equality and strengthening of decentralization, and were attempting to allocate and channel resources for collective action. He noted that in a country the size of India, and with the relatively small financial contribution of the United Nations system, the extent to which the system could promote new ideas, leverage public support and encourage the channelling of public resources into critical areas was of great relevance. Bilateral partners had responded very positively to the UNDAF process. Forging of partnerships with other development agencies had also been very effective, especially in such areas as giving women a public voice and increasing attention to disadvantaged girl children.

142. The President of the Executive Board of WFP took over as Chair. Many delegations welcomed the presentations and information provided on the UNDAF process in India, which they felt was a positive example of collaboration at the country level. Speakers praised the clarity of the objectives and noted the full ownership of the Government, as well as the harmonization with the Ninth Five-Year Plan.

143. Delegations raised a number of issues in response to the presentations. Given the vast size of the country, some speakers wondered whether the actions of the United Nations country team would have a lasting effect in promoting gender equality and decentralization. Information on operationalization of the UNDAF at the national, state and local levels was sought.

144. Many questions addressed the programming processes of the United Nations organizations in India, including how the country team had adapted to the

long-term planning cycle of the Government, and if country programmes of individual organizations had been affected. Several delegations noted the high quality of the CCA in India. Queries were raised about problems faced in joint programming; maintenance of the individual identity of participating organizations; the time-frame for collaborative action; incorporation of global conference goals in the UNDAF; and phasing out of less strategic activities. Some speakers requested specific information on programmes, including cooperation in emergency situations and whether disadvantaged women were involved in planning processes. One delegation queried whether children were included in decision-making in programmes on their behalf, and whether disabled people were given rights to health and education. The same speaker requested information on whether the rights-based approach of UNICEF had affected programming in other organizations. Another delegation queried whether reporting by country offices had been streamlined through the UNDAF process.

145. Some delegations requested information on the percentage of funding that was devoted to the UNDAF by each fund and programme. Others expressed interest in the amount of savings achieved. One delegation queried whether joint resource mobilization had taken place. With regard to cooperation with the Government, speakers raised queries about internal coordination between departments and ministries and coordination between central and local governments, as well as about the impact of the UNDAF on the work of the ministries.

146. Several speakers requested information on the role of other organizations in the UNDAF process, including, in particular, the World Bank. Many delegations mentioned the World Bank CDF. Some speakers queried whether bilateral donors could have a more enhanced collaborative role in the process. One delegation underlined the need for strategic partnerships beyond the UNDAF, including with the private sector, particularly in information technology.

147. A number of delegations underlined that the teamwork described had indicated that much progress could be achieved. Information was requested on monitoring of progress of the UNDAF. Others queried how lessons learned in India would benefit other UNDAF countries, including smaller countries.

148. The President of the WFP Executive Board noted the interest of the members of the Food and Agriculture Organization Council, as well as of the governing body of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, in the CCA and UNDAF processes. The WFP Executive Board had cited many positive aspects of the process as well, noting the savings inherent in United Nations coordination. The transparent identification of problems in the UNDAF process in the papers and the oral presentations had been very useful. She noted that in India there had been much progress in achieving food security, yet it remained a problem in some areas. She hoped that food security would continue to be a focus in taking account of the needs of vulnerable groups in the country.

149. The Secretary of the Planning Commission, Government of India, underlined that the UNDAF should not be measured in terms of dollars spent, because grant aid accounted for a very small portion of India's annual development budget. The important element was to maximize the impact - and mainstream the stated objectives - of gender equality and decentralization. He noted the synergy between multilateral donors and bilateral agencies, as well as cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions. Lessons learned and information sharing were particularly important factors in the UNDAF process. With regard to the specific objectives of the UNDAF in India, he noted that efforts in achieving gender equality and decentralization must relate to the nature of the problem, and that funds, policies and projects should be integrated to maximize benefits to target

groups. Planning committees had been established to coordinate the development efforts of the ministries involved in the UNDAF process. He noted that the UNDAF should not be seen as a programme that would supplant other development efforts, but rather as a tool to improve performance and impact.

150. The United Nations Resident Coordinator/Resident Representative cited cooperation with the World Bank throughout the UNDAF process and noted that India was not developing a CDF. She informed the Boards that the World Bank was in the process of designing a gender mainstreaming policy and had assisted the UNDAF process with provision of expertise in gender mapping, participation in inter-agency exercises and co-sponsorship of workshops. She responded to a number of other queries raised, including affirming the intention to work with the private sector on information technology, the need for a new, non-appeal process for disaster relief and the positive effect of the "capabilities approach" in assessing gender equality.

151. The UNICEF representative cited the positive feedback the country team had received for its disaster management in responding to the cyclone in Orissa. He noted that the disparity between the planning cycle of the Government of India and the country programmes of individual funds and programmes would be overcome in harmonization of programme cycles with the Government's Tenth Five-Year Plan in 2003. He cited the success of working in a decentralized government structure, with the funds and programmes operating at the state level. In that regard, he noted that a great deal of funding was being funnelled directly through states. In the area of HIV/AIDS, he stated that the United Nations Theme Group comprised bilateral and multilateral organizations, including the World Bank, together with the Government. One of the lessons learned had been that it was not necessary to place all United Nations activities into an UNDAF; rather, focusing on strategic themes could add value. Experience had shown that rapid and effective collaboration was possible, even within existing procedures of each organization.

152. The UNFPA representative underlined that the large number of United Nations organizations in India made the process somewhat slower than in other UNDAF countries. Much had been achieved in collaborative action, he noted, and more was expected over the next two to three years, before the start of the next planning cycle. The campaign on violence against women was an excellent example of United Nations agencies working together to produce results. He stated that savings had been identified in operational areas. He noted that bilateral organizations could be involved at both national and state levels in connection with each UNDAF objective, with bilateral participation in the HIV/AIDS theme group a good example.

153. The WFP representative stated that some joint programming had been initiated, such as in disaster management. He cited the common databases and indicators developed through inter-agency processes as positive examples of collaboration, including at the district level. Food security would be taken into consideration in the UNDAF process in connection with the focus objectives.

154. The President of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA closed the joint meeting with a summary of the discussion. He acknowledged the dynamic leadership of the Government of India in the direction and ownership of the UNDAF process. During the meeting, a lively and comprehensive debate had taken place, with many important suggestions and comments. He noted that the strategic focus of the UNDAF in India in promoting gender equality and decentralization, backed by a well-articulated CCA, was in line with General Assembly resolution 53/192. The inter-agency working groups at the country level had been strengthened with the

direct involvement of the Government and bilateral development agencies. The UNDAF process in India had been very inclusive, with a spirit of collaboration firmly in place. The comments on working closely with the Bretton Woods institutions were noted. In sum, the meeting had been very constructive, and future joint meetings would be considered when agenda items were such that joint deliberations would bring added value to the organizations concerned.

Annex I

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGULAR RESOURCES FOR YEARS 1998 TO 2000 AND INDICATIVE PLEDGES FOR 2001 AND 2002

Pledges received as at 2 February, 2000

(Expressed in thousands of currency pledged and in United States dollars equivalents)

(This matrix shows firm pledges and indicative pledges from member states. A number of countries -unable to make pledges at this time- indicated expectations that their contributions would exceed current levels of support. If those countries were added to the matrix at current levels of contributions, the total government contributions at current exchange rates would amount to 94.4% of the MTP projection of USD 363 millions).

Country	1998 Actual		1999 Provisional (a)		2000 Pledge		2001 Indication		2002 Indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Albania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Algeria	-	-	20.0	20.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andorra	12.0	12.0	-	-	-	- (j)	-	-	-	-
Angola	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Antigua-Barbuda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Armenia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Australia	4,456.0	2,970.7	4,590.0	2,809.1	4,672.0	3,033.8 (h)	-	-	-	-
Austria	21,000.0	1,694.0	20,000.0	1,695.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Azerbaijan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bahamas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bahrain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bangladesh	30.0	30.0	32.0	32.0	34.5	34.5 (g,h)	-	-	-	-
Barbados	8.0	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belarus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belgium	80,000.0	2,156.3	80,000.0	2,313.6	-	- (j)	-	-	-	-
Belize	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benin	3.5	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.5 (g)	-	-	-	-
Bhutan	805.6	20.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bolivia	195.0	195.0 (e)	20.0	20.0	10.0	10.0 (h)	-	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bostwana	20.0	5.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brazil	300.0	300.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
British Virgin Islands	-	-	38.4	38.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brunei Darusaalam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bulgaria	180.0	0.1	250.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burkina Faso	3,000.0	5.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burundi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Country	1998 Actual		1999 Provisional (a)		2000 Pledge			2001 Indication			2002 Indication		
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$		Local currency	US$		Local currency	US$	
Cameroon	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Canada	13,500.0	9,574.5	13,500.0	8,940.4	-	-	(j)	-	-		-	-	
Cape Verde	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Central African Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Chad	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Chile	70.0	70.0 (b)	70.0	70.0 (b)	70.0	70.0	(b,g)	-	-		-	-	
China	1,100.0	1,100.0 (b)	1,100.0	1,100.0	1,100.0	1,100.0	(b,g,h)	-	-		-	-	
Colombia	450.0	450.0	450.0	450.0	450.0	450.0	(g,h)	-	-		-	-	
Comoros	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Congo	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Costa Rica	3,300.0	12.6	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Cote D'Ivoire	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Croatia	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Cuba	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	(b,g,h)	-	-		-	-	
Cyprus	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.9	(f,g)	-	-		-	-	
Czech Republic	4,000.0	120.8	5,000.0	166.6	5,000.0	139.1	(g)	-	-		-	-	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	25.0	11.7	-	-	30.0	14.1	(g)	-	-		-	-	
Democratic Republic of Congo	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Denmark	200,000.0	30,467.2	190,000.0	26,443.8	190,000.0	25,640.5	(h)	200,000.0	26,990.0	(h,l)	200,000.0	26,990.0	(h,l)
Djibouti	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Dominica	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Dominican Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Egypt	130.0	38.3	-	-	130.0	38.0	(g)	-	-		-	-	
El Salvador	25.0	25.0	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Equatorial Guinea	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Eritrea	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Estonia	18.6	18.6	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Ethiopia	49.3	49.3	49.3	49.3	-	-		-	-		-	-	l
Fiji	4.8	2.5	4.8	2.4	5.1	2.6	(h)	-	-		-	-	l

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Country	1998 Actual		1999 Provisional (a)		2000 Pledge		2001 Indication		2002 Indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Finland	63,842.8	11,822.7 (l)	64,000.0	11,271.7	-	- (j)	-	-	-	-
France	47,000.0	7,981.4	49,000.0	7,848.5 (c)	48,000.0	7,202.4 (h)	-	-	-	-
Gabon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gambia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Germany	11,000.0	5,978.3	10,700.0	5,921.1	8,500.0	4,367.9 (h)	-	-	-	-
Ghana	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
Greece	200.0	200.0	230.0	230.0 (f)	-	- (j)	-	-	-	-
Grenada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guatemala	190.0	31.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guinea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guinea Bissau	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guyana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haiti	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holy See	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Honduras	47.2	47.2	22.2	22.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hong Kong	11.4	11.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hungary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland	8,936.2	133.0	8,858.6	131.8	9,500.0	130.2 (f,h)	-	-	-	-
India	29,200.0	694.7 (b)	31,000.0	715.8	31,000.0	716.7 (g)	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	190.6	190.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iran (Ismalic Republic of)	-	-	-	-	50.0	50.0 (e)	-	-	-	-
Iraq	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland	1,352.0	1,896.0	1,350.0	1,927.9 (l)	-	- (j)	-	-	-	-
Israel	40.0	40.0	55.0	55.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	12,000,000.0	6,779.7	14,000,000.0	7,758.0	-	- (j)	-	-	-	-
Jamaica	17.0	0.5 (b)	-	-	60.0	60.0 (b,g)	-	-	-	-
Japan	25,533.0	25,533.0	25,215.0	25,215.0	26,600.0	26,600.0 (f, h)	-	-	-	-
Jordan	10.0	14.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kazakhstan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Country	1998 Actual		1999 Provisional (a)		2000 Pledge		2001 Indication		2002 Indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Kenya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kiribati	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kuwait	-	-	200.0	200.0 (i)	200.0	200.0 (g,i)	-	-	-	-
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lao People's Democratic Republic	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
Latvia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesotho	-	-	23.6	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liberia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liechtenstein	5.0	3.4	7.0	5.1	7.0	4.6 (g)	-	-	-	-
Lithuania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg	13,986.5	368.1	16,000.0	463.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madagascar	500.0	1.4 (k)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malawi	60.0	1.4	60.0	1.4	60.0	1.4 (g)	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	84.0	84.0	84.0	84.0	84.0	84.0 (g,f)	-	-	-	-
Maldives	5.0	5.0	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5 (g)	-	-	-	-
Mali	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malta	4.1	4.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marshall Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritania	500.0	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritius	180.0	7.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico	202.4	202.4 (h)	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
Micronesia (Federated States of)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Monaco	79.8	13.1	86.3	15.3	87.4	14.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
Mongolia	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	11.0	11.0 (g,h)	-	-	-	-
Morocco	75.0	75.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mozambique	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myanmar	1,560.2	6.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Namibia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Country	1998 Actual		1999 Provisional (a)		2000 Pledge		2001 Indication		2002 Indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Nauru	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nepal	637.0	10.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	52,000.0	25,836.8	52,000.0	27,531.9	52,000.0	23,716.2 (h)	52,000.0	23,716.2 (h,l)	52,000.0	23,716.2 (h,l)
New Zealand	1,400.0	818.7	1,500.0	789.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nicaragua	26.0	26.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Niger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway	290,000.0	38,402.6	280,000.0	36,940.4	280,000.0	34,826.4 (h)	-	-	-	-
Oman	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
Pakistan	-	-	2,750.0	56.5 (b)	2,700.0	52.7 (h)	-	-	-	-
Palau	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Panama	16.7	16.7	33.6	33.6 (e)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Papua New Guinea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paraguay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peru	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines	140.5	140.5 (b)	48.1	48.1 (b)	50.5	50.5 (b,h,f)	-	-	-	-
Poland	-	-	155.5	46.0	208.0	51.5 (g,f)	-	-	-	-
Portugal	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0 (h)	-	-	-	-
Qatar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Republic of Korea	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,200.0	1,200.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Republic of Moldova	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Romania	14,723.6	1.5	85,276.4	5.3	210,000.0	11.7 (f,g,h)	-	-	-	-
Russian Federation	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0	500.0 (f,g,h)	500.0	500.0 (h,l)	500.0	500.0 (h,l)
Rwanda	1,397.0	4.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saint Kitts & Nevis	-	-	2.7	2.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saint Lucia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Samoa	-	-	1.0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Marino	39,749.2	22.4 (f)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
Saudi Arabia	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0	1,000.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
Senegal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seychelles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Singapore	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
Slovakia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slovenia	500.1	3.1	347.0	2.2	681.0	3.6 (h)	-	-	-	-
Solomon Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somalia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Africa	201.8	40.2	202.7	34.5	200.0	31.7 (h)	-	-	-	-
Spain	273,137.6	1,797.0 (l)	275,000.0	1,748.2 (d)	-	- (j)	-	-	-	-
Sri Lanka	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sudan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suriname	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swaziland	8.8	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden	250,000.0	32,056.6	265,000.0	32,939.2	280,000.0	33,174.4 (h)	280,000.0	33,174.4 (h,l)		-
Switzerland	17,000.0	12,230.2	17,000.0	12,408.8	17,000.0	10,625.0 (h)	17,000.0	10,625.0 (h,l)	17,000.0	10,625.0 (h,l)
Syrian Arab Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tajikistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	2,925.0	188.4 (b, k)	2,080.5	169.2 (b, k)	2,080.5	112.5 (b,g)	-	-	-	-
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Togo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tonga	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	-	-	1.6	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tunisia	55.7	94.7 (e)	40.5	37.3	37.0	30.0 (g,h)	37.0	30.2 (h)	37.0	30.2 (h)
Turkey	130.0	130.0	120.0	120.0	120.0	120.0 (g,h)	-	-	-	-
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuvalu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uganda	-	-	-	-	2.0	2.0 (h)	-	-	-	-
Ukraine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Country	1998 Actual		1999 Provisional (a)		2000 Pledge		2001 Indication		2002 Indication	
	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$	Local currency	US$
United Arab Emirates	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 (g)	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Republic of Tanzania	10,000.0	16,666.7	13,000.0	21,035.6	15,000.0	24,193.5 (h)	15,000.0	24,193.5 (h,i)	15,000.0	24,193.5 (h,i)
United States of America	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	100,000.0	100,000.0	105,000.0	105,000.0	110,000.0	110,000.0 (h)	-	-	-	-
Uzbekistan	-	-	30.0	30.0 (e)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vanuatu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Venezuela	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Viet Nam	47.0	47.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yemen	12.8	12.8	-	-	13.7	13.7 (g)	-	-	-	-
Yugoslavia	-	-	16.7	16.7	18.4	18.4 (g,h)	-	-	-	-
Zambia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS		343,276.2		348,621.6 (a)		309,513.6		119,229.3		86,054.9
Adjustments to prior years		374.9								
TOTAL GOVERNMENTS		343,651.1		348,621.6		309,513.6		119,229.3		86,054.9

LEGEND:

(a) Some figures may change after closing of 1999 accounts
(b) Amount reported excludes contribution towards local costs
(c) Additional 1998 contribution (FrF 1 Million equivalent to USD 177,870), recorded in 1999 as 1999 income
(d) Additional Esp15 million pledged for 1999 received on 6 Jan 2000
(e) Including funds received for prior years contributions
(f) Subject to parliamentary approval
(g) Pledge made during 1999 United Nations Pledging Conference
(h) Pledge made subsequent to 199 UN Conference and/or confirmed during UNICEF Executive Board 1st Session, Feb. 2000
(i) Tentative pledge
(j) To be announced during fiscal year
(k) Includes contributions made and/or paid in both currencies
(l) Amount in local currency adjusted upon application of UN exchange rate when payment received

Annex II

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

2000/1. Private Sector Division work plan and proposed budget for 2000

A. Private Sector Division budgeted expenditures for the 2000 season

The Executive Board

1. Approves for the fiscal year 1 January to 31 December 2000 budgeted expenditures of $93.1 million as detailed below and summarized in column II of table 7 of document E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.1:

	(In millions of United States dollars)
Commissions - field offices	2.3
Cost of goods delivered	35.4
Marketing expenditures	20.8
Support Services	19.6
Market Development Programme (MDP)	3.4
Fund-raising Development Programme (FDP)	7.1
Central and Eastern European National Committees Development Programme	0.5
Nordic Investment Programme	4.0
Total expenditures, consolidated[a]	93.1

[a] For details, see table 2.

2. Authorizes the Executive Director:

(a) To incur expenditures, as summarized in column II of table 7 of document E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.1, and to increase expenditures up to the level indicated in column III of the same table should the apparent proceeds from card and product sales and/or private sector fund-raising increase to the levels indicated in column III and, accordingly, to reduce expenditures below the level indicated in column II, to the extent necessary, should the net proceeds decrease;

(b) To redeploy resources between the various budget lines (as detailed in paragraph 1 above) up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the amounts approved;

(c) To spend an additional amount between Executive Board sessions, when necessary, up to the amount caused by currency fluctuations, to implement the 2000 approved work plan.

B. Budgeted income for the 2000 season

The Executive Board

Notes that for the period 1 January to 31 December 2000, Private Sector Division (PSD) net proceeds are budgeted at $291.0 million (regular resources) as shown in column II of table 7 of document E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.1.

C. Policy issues

The Executive Board

1. Approves the changes in posts with a net decrease of six posts, as indicated in annexes I and III to document E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.1;

2. Renews MDP with $3.4 million established for 2000;

3. Renews FDP with $7.1 million established for 2000;

4. Renews the Central and Eastern National Committees Development Programme, which includes nine countries, with a budget of $0.5 million established for 2000;

5. Establishes the Nordic Investment Programme, which includes four countries, with a budget of $4.0 million for 2000;

6. Authorizes the Executive Director to incur expenditures in the 2000 fiscal period related to the cost of goods delivered (production/purchase of raw materials, cards and other products) for the 2001 fiscal year up to $37.6 million as indicated in the PSD medium-term plan (see table 6 of document E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.1).

D. Medium-term plan

The Executive Board

Approves the PSD medium-term plan as reflected in table 6 of document E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.1.

First regular session
31 January 2000

2000/2. Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation

The Executive Board

Approves the following recommendations as summarized in document E/ICEF/2000/P/L.19:

(a) The allocation of additional regular resources in the total amount of $9,966,943 to fund the approved country programmes as follows:

Country	Period	Amount	Approved country programme document (E/ICEF/...)
Cambodia	2000	1 277 000	1996/P/L.51
Congo	2000	26 398	1998/P/L.25
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2000	83 000	1998/P/L.30
Guinea	2000-2001	2 701 000	1996/P/L.12/Add.1
Iraq	2000	966 650	1998/P/L.32
Liberia	2000	293 000	1998/P/L.27
Madagascar	2000	734 023	1995/P/L.12
Rwanda	2000	549 000	1997/P/L.20
Senegal	2000-2001	2 168 000	1996/P/L.14/Add.1
Somalia	2000	1 168 872	1998/P/L.24

(b) A one-year extension of the current approved country programmes of cooperation for Egypt (E/ICEF/1994/P/L.14 and Corr.1) and Malaysia (E/ICEF/1996/P/L.28/Add.1).

First regular session
2 February 2000

2000/3. Multi-year funding framework: securing adequate resources to achieve the medium term plan priorities

The Executive Board

1. Endorses the proposed timing of the presentations to the Executive Board of the various elements of the multi-year funding framework (MYFF), with due regard for the extra provisions regarding the proposed changes to the support budget (as outlined in paragraph 3 below);

2. Affirms the validity of the current medium-term plan to the end of 2001 and endorses the proposal that the next medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) be presented to the Executive Board in 2001 for a fixed period of four years (2002-2005). At that occasion, the timing of the presentation of the various elements of the MYFF to the Executive Board will also be reviewed;

3. Requests the Executive Director to submit the proposed modifications to the budget process (as described in paragraphs 39 and 57 of document E/ICEF/2000/5) to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for its review and comments prior to final submission of a revised budget process to the annual session of the Executive Board in 2000, in view of the importance of flexible responses to programme and resource situations for achievement of the MTSP priorities;

4. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board, through part II of her annual report, in accordance with decision 1999/7 (E/ICEF/1999/7/Rev.1), updates, as and when necessary, of the programmatic content of the MTSP during the four-year duration.

First regular session
2 February 2000

2000/4. Annual report to the Economic and Social Council

The Executive Board

Takes note of the "Report of the Executive Director: Annual report to the Economic and Social Council" (E/ICEF/2000/4 (Part I) and Corr.1 and Corr.2), and requests the secretariat to transmit it, along with a summary of the comments made during the discussion, to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its substantive session of 2000.

First regular session
3 February 2000

2000/5. Report on the second session of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health

The Executive Board

Takes note of the report of the WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health at its second session held at WHO Headquarters in Geneva on 2 and 3 December 1999 (E/ICEF/2000/7) and the recommendations contained therein.

First regular session
3 February 2000